M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA AND INDIAN STATES.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2855 Press Mis.

367 + 368

Dated 26-11- 1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th November 1873.

No. 367. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Trevandrum, 30th October 1873, No. 97 :—

ADVERTING to paragraph 3 of G. O., dated 27th August last, No. 2,138, Public Works Department, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter* to the Diwan from Mr. Crawford, the Travancore Commercial Agent, on the state of the coast of Travancore. The writer's long experience on the coast, and observation of the action of the sea, give considerable weight to his opinions on such questions.

* No. 516, dated 25th September 1873.

2. The Travancore Chief Engineer is on leave. Copy of his report on the subject will be forwarded when received.

From H. CRAWFORD, Esq., Commercial Agent, to A. SASHIA SASTRI, Diwan of Travancore, Trevandrum, dated Allepey, 25th September 1873, No. 516.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 3,694 (P. W.) 980, of the 19th instant, with extract paragraphs 9 and 10, Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell's letter, extract paragraph 3, Government Order of 27th August 1873.

2. The encroachments alluded to on the coast of Travancore, as threatening the harbour of Cochin in the event of the sea at any time breaching the beach and flowing into the backwater carrying general destruction with it, need not be apprehended. The principal rivers of the country meeting in the great estuary near this all flow into the sea at Cochin, and the course of these rivers through the estuary carry a depth in their common channel of from 36 to 40 feet and upwards at a distance from the coast line of not less than four or five miles, and from a similar depth out at sea of not less than eight miles until at the island of Vendoorty, from whence the water flows over a shelf at the deepest of only 15, 12, and 10 feet until near the mouth of the harbour, when it falls again to 23, 30, and 40 feet or a little more, again decreasing as you approach the bar. There is therefore no necessity for groynes on the coast of Travancore, and there is no chance of the waters from the backwater finding any outlet to the sea but the present one at Cochin. I have said that near Vendoorty Island "a shelf" rises there carrying only a very small depth of water up to near the mouth of the river; indeed, the whole of that beautiful sheet of water from Vendoorty at the south, northward to a line eastward from Vypeen Point to Candle Island, Balghauty, and the shore of the mainland at Ernacollum is for the most part extremely shallow, except through a very narrow channel having 15 to 10 feet on the Muttencherry shore, so that this large area is for the most part 30 to 40 feet above the channel of the rivers at present flowing over it from the south. I have not examined to the north of Balghauty. To dredge therefore a deep channel, say, to 20 feet, through the soft mud to the entrance of the harbour (I think to the eastward of Vendoorty would be the proper channel to form) would, I think, assist very considerably the end sought by the Government of India—the keeping of the river open, by the heavy scour which the concentrated weight of water from all the rivers north and south flowing in a direct line from that area in front of Balghauty would have.

No. 368. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1873, No. 2,855.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 22.

THESE papers will be communicated to the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications, with the remark that His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied from the statements

made by an officer of so much experience as the Travancore Commercial Agent that there is no reason to apprehend any serious consequences to the harbour of Cochin from the present condition of the coast of Travancore.

2. The proposal to dredge a deep channel to the entrance of the harbour from the neighbourhood of Vendoorty is one which should be considered when the details of the harbour improvements are being matured.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications.
,, District Engineer, Malabar.
,, Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
,, Marine Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE INSPECTING ENGINEER FOR PORTS

AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Dated November 26th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 26*th November* 1873, *No.* 2,855.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 367-368

Cochin Harbour.—Passing orders on letter from the Resident in Travancore submitting a report by the Commercial Agent on the state of the Travancore coast as affecting the Cochin Harbour.

1641

No 516/1873

Commercial Office
Allepey 25th Septr. 1873

To

A. Sashiah Sastri Esquire
Dewan of Travancore
Trevandrum

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No 3694/PW 980 of the 19 Instt. with Extract Paras 9 & 10 Lt. Col. Farewell's letter Extract Para 3 Govt. Order of 27th August 1873.

The Encroachments alluded to on the Coast of Travancore as threatening the Harbour of Cochin in the event of the sea at any time breaching the Beach and flowing into the Backwater carrying general destruction with it need not be apprehended. The principal rivers of the country meeting in the great Estuary near this all flow into the sea at Cochin & the course of these rivers thro' the Estuary carry a depth in their common channel of from 36 to 40 feet & upwards at a distance from the Coast line of not less than 4 or 5 miles, & from a similar depth out at sea, of not less than 8 miles until at the Island of Vendoorty from whence the water flows over a Shelf at the deepest of only 15, 12 & 10 feet until near the mouth of the Harbour when it falls again to 23, 30 & 40 feet or a little more, again decreasing as you approach the Bar. There is therefore

no

no necessity for groynes on the coast of Travancore, & there is no chance of the waters from the Backwaters finding any outlet to the sea but the present one at Cochin. I have said that near Vendoorty Island "a shelf" rises there carrying only a very small depth of water up to near the mouth of the river, indeed the whole of that beautiful sheet of water from Vendoorty at the South - Northward to a line eastward from Vypeen Point to Candle Island Balghauty & the shore of the main land at Ernacollum is for the most part extremely shallow except thro' a very narrow channel having 15 to 10 feet on the Muttencherry shore, so that this large area is for the most part 30 to 40 feet above the channel of the rivers at present flowing over it from the South - I have not examined to the north of Balghauty - To dredge there for a deep channel say to 20 feet through the soft mud to the entrance of the Harbour (I think to the eastward of Vendoorty would be the proper channel to form) would I think, assist very considerably the end sought by the Government of India the keeping of the River open - by the heavy scour which the concentrated weight of water from all the rivers North & South flowing in a direct line from that area in front of Balghauty would have -

(True Copy)

Sigd/ Shaw &c.

Sigd/ H Crawford
Commercial Agent.

(True Copy)
(Sigd) A Sashiah Sastri
Dewan

[signature]
Resident.

T.S.
E.F.L.

1873.

Enclosed in a letter from the Resident in Travan:core & Cochin to the Secre:tary to Government P.W.D. Fort St George Ootacamund No 97 dated 30 October 1873.

From the Commercial Agent Alleppey to the Dewan of Travancore No 516 dated 25 September 1873

G.O. no. 2855-26-11-73

P.W. 6109/73
1111

Reporting on the State of the Coast of Tra:vancore

No 97

Residents Office,
Trevandrum 30th October 1873

From,

G. A. Ballard, Esquire
Resident in Travancore & Cochin

To,

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Fort Saint George
Ootacamund.

Sir,

Adverting to para 3 G.O. dated 27 August last No 2138 P.W.D, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter to the Dewan from Mr. Crawford the Travancore Commercial Agent on the state of the Coast of Travancore. The writer's long experience on the Coast and observation of the action of the Sea give considerable weight to his opinions on such questions.

*No 516 dated 25 Sept. 1873

The Travancore Chief Engineer is on leave. Copy of his report on the subject will be forwarded when received.

O[illegible]

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,
C. A. Russell
Resident.

J. S.
Em. D. L.

P.W. 1873 Dept

From No. 6109-

The Resident in Travancore & Cochin

To The Secretary to Government P.W.D. Fort St George

Dated 30th October 1873

Received 10th November 73

No. 97

Enclosure one

No.

Forwarding copy of a letter from the Travancore Commercial Agent to the Dewan of Travancore regarding the state of the Coast of Travancore.

With order

No. 2855

These papers will be communicated to the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications with the remark that His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied from the statements made by an Officer of so much experience as the Travancore Commercial Agent that there is no reason to apprehend any serious consequences to the Harbour of Cochin from the present condition of the coast of Travancore.

The proposal to dredge a deep channel to the entrance of the Harbour from the neighbourhood of Vendoorty is one which should be considered when the details of the Harbour improvements are being matured.

G.W.W.

Inspg. Engr. Ports & Com.
Dt. Engr. Malabar
Resident Travancore & Cochin
Desp. with S.C. 27/11/73

34/4

N: 367-68.

D: 10th Nov 1873

No 6109

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the ~~Chief Engineer~~ Inspecting Engr for Ports & [illegible]

Dated

Recd. Encl. 1

G. O. 26th Novr 1873, No. 2855.

Nos. 367 & 368.

Cochin Harbour.

Passing orders on letter from the Resident in Travancore [illegible] submitting a report by the [illegible] Commercial Agent on the State of the Travancore Coast as affecting the Cochin Harbour.

CONCERNS BOTH BRITISH INDIA AND INDIAN STATES.